

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 71

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH AND THE ENERGY,  
MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY SUSTAINABLE  
ALTERNATIVE FUNDING MEASURES IN ORDER TO PROTECT NEW MEXICO'S  
UNIQUE LANDSCAPES, OPEN SPACES, RECREATION AREAS AND WILDLIFE  
HABITATS.

WHEREAS, wildlife-associated recreation creates annual  
expenditures of more than one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000)  
a year in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, conservation funding for protection and  
maintenance of New Mexico's outdoor recreation areas, land,  
water and wildlife is inadequate to meet current and future  
needs; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to the fourth largest number  
of plant and animal species in the United States, with ninety

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1 species of plants and animals that do not exist anywhere else  
2 in the world; and

3 WHEREAS, one hundred twenty-two species of animals in the  
4 state are at risk of extinction, and twenty-two species have  
5 been extirpated from the state altogether; and

6 WHEREAS, preventing the loss of further species is in the  
7 best interest of the state's future conservation efforts,  
8 economic vitality and quality of life; and

9 WHEREAS, the alteration and development of New Mexico's  
10 natural areas to accommodate the state's rapidly growing  
11 population have contributed to the fragmentation and  
12 destruction of wildlife habitat, the degradation of water  
13 resources, the loss of agricultural lands and outdoor  
14 recreation space, the destruction of cultural and historic  
15 sites and the diminishment of wetlands and native bosque  
16 forests; and

17 WHEREAS, the potential development of New Mexico's  
18 remaining natural areas and escalation of land values require  
19 governmental efforts to restore, enhance or acquire lands and  
20 riparian areas to preserve the state's invaluable quality of  
21 life; and

22 WHEREAS, river bosques, arroyos, agricultural lands,  
23 wildlife habitat and historical and cultural sites are part of  
24 the state's heritage and should be preserved as a legacy for  
25 the next generation; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico residents strongly support the  
2 protection of the state's unique landscapes, open spaces,  
3 recreation areas and wildlife habitats; and

4           WHEREAS, access to public lands supports a broad range of  
5 outdoor recreational opportunities; and

6           WHEREAS, neglect of the state's land, water and wildlife  
7 will hinder the state's economy and its ability to attract  
8 desirable industries; and

9           WHEREAS, the constitution of New Mexico declares that the  
10 protection of the state's beautiful and healthful environment  
11 is of fundamental importance to the public interest and that  
12 the legislature shall provide protection for the air, water and  
13 other natural resources; and

14           WHEREAS, a broadly supported and broadly contributed  
15 citizen-based funding source for conserving wildlife habitats  
16 and for maintaining and developing open spaces and outdoor  
17 recreation areas throughout New Mexico is of utmost value;

18           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish and  
20 the energy, minerals and natural resources department be  
21 requested to conduct a study to investigate sustainable  
22 alternative funding measures to protect New Mexico's unique  
23 landscapes, open spaces, recreation areas and wildlife  
24 habitats; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study be completed no

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1 later than December 31, 2004; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the department of game and fish and the energy,  
4 minerals and natural resources department.

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